

NEW YORK TIMES

PAGE 19.2 DATE 10 July 78

**Publishers' Groups to File Brief
Supporting Former C.I.A. Agent**

WASHINGTON, July 9 (AP) — The Association of American Publishers says that it plans to file a "friend of the court" legal brief supporting the right of Frank Snepp, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, to write about the C.I.A.'s operations. The brief will be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth District.

Last week a Federal judge ordered Mr. Snepp to surrender his profits from the book "Decent Interval," which details C.I.A. activities in the last days of the Vietnam War, and to get agency approval before writing anything further about the agency. Judge Oren Lewis said that Mr. Snepp had breached a contract with the agency requiring prior approval by the agency of publications.

The publishers' groups says that the C.I.A. contract violates Mr. Snepp's First Amendment rights to speak freely on issues of public importance and allows the Government to censor nonclassified information.

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